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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,415	11/21/2000	Akihisa Kenmochi	14090	6487

23389 7590 02/08/2007
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC
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EXAMINER

DENNISON, JERRY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/717,415	KENMOCHI, AKIHISA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	J. Bret Dennison	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,9 and 13-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5 and 13-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. This Action is in response to the Amendment for Application Number 09/717,415 received on 4 May 2006.
2. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, and 13-35 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deo et al. (U.S. 7,024,450).

3. Regarding claim 17, Deo disclosed a network contents managing system comprising:

a plurality of apparatuses connected to a network wherein each apparatus of the plurality of apparatuses comprises a contents file and a contents monitoring unit that outputs contents modification information when the apparatus modifies the contents file (Deo, col. 4, lines 10-15, disclosed a service administrator that controls the distribution of managed objects among service processing nodes; Deo, col. 4, lines 40-60, Deo disclosed each service processing node including its own local database for data management; col. 4, lines 29-35, Deo disclose managed objects that are newly created

or modified in the service creating environment are also submitted to the service administrator for storage in the global database);

a contents database retaining accessibility information for each of the contents files of the plurality of apparatuses (Deo, col. 4, lines 12-17, Deo disclosed a global database of record where service functions are stored as managed objects; col. 4, lines 29-35, Deo disclose managed objects that are newly created or modified in the service creating environment are also submitted to the service administrator for storage in the global database); and

a database managing unit, wherein said database managing unit updates the contents database according to the contents modification information (Deo, col. 4, lines 29-35, Deo disclose managed objects that are newly created or modified in the service creating environment are also submitted to the service administrator for storage in the global database).

4. Regarding claim 2, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 17, including wherein the contents monitoring unit further outputs the contents modification information when the retained accessibility information is modified as a result of a mounting/removing of a removable medium (Deo, col. 5, lines 10-15, Deo disclosed data management of objects based upon network hardware attributes including availability of specialized equipment; col. 5, lines 35-45, Deo also disclosed management of equipment deployment and operating status).

5. Regarding claim 3, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 17, including wherein the network monitoring unit detects a power on/off the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network and retains in the contents database retained information reflecting the power on/off of the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network (Deo, col. 5, lines 35-45, Deo also disclosed management of equipment deployment and operating status).

6. Regarding claim 5, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 17, including a power monitoring unit for monitoring a power operation of at least one apparatus of the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network (Deo, col. 5, lines 35-45, Deo also disclosed management of equipment deployment and operating status) and a remote start unit for activating at least one of the contents database, a retrieval request detection unit, a network monitoring unit, a database retrieval unit, the database managing unit, and the retrieval result output unit at another apparatus of the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network (Deo, col. 4, lines 25-35).

7. Regarding claim 14, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 17, including wherein the contents database associates the content file with an apparatus identification number, and retains the apparatus identification number while including apparatus usable state data with the apparatus identification number; and the database managing unit performs registration and modification to the

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contents database upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information (Deo, col. 5, lines 37-45).

8. Regarding claim 15, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 14, including wherein the database managing unit changes the apparatus usable state data not shown in the connection state to be unusable (Deo, col. 5, lines 37-45).

9. Regarding claim 16, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 14, including wherein the database managing unit changes the apparatus usable state data of the information including the apparatus identification number shown in the connection state to be usable (Deo, col. 5, lines 37-45).

10. Regarding claim 18, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 17, including a network monitoring unit that monitors a change in connection state to the network of at least one of the apparatuses of the plurality of apparatuses and outputs a new apparatus connection state as connection state information when the connection state of the apparatus changes, wherein the database managing unit further updates the contents database according to the connection state information (Deo, col. 4, lines 50-60, col. 5, lines 25-30, 37-45).

11. Regarding claim 19, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 18, including wherein the contents monitoring unit further outputs the contents modification information when retained information is modified as a result of a mounting/removing of a removable medium (Deo, col. 5, lines 9-13, 20-30).

12. Regarding claim 20, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 18, including wherein the network monitoring unit detects a power on/off of the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network and retains in the contents database retained information reflecting the power on/off of the plurality of apparatuses connected to the network.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Doi et al. (U.S. 6,970,919).

13. Regarding claim 17, Doi disclosed a network contents managing system comprising:

- a plurality of apparatuses connected to a network wherein each apparatus of the plurality of apparatuses comprises a contents file and a contents monitoring unit that outputs contents modification information when the apparatus modifies the contents file;

- a contents database retaining accessibility information for each of the contents files of the plurality of apparatuses; and

a database managing unit, wherein said database managing unit updates the contents database according to the contents modification information (Doi, col. 5, lines 20-30, col. 6, lines 13-15, 25-35, Doi disclosed controlling a network which includes network elements connected via links and provides services, including collecting update information about each network element and converting the information to registration information and updating the registration information if there is a change, in which the registration information is transferred only when there is a change).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deo et al. (U.S. 7,024,450) in view of admitted prior art (AAPA).

14. Regarding claim 13, Deo disclosed the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 17. Deo did not explicitly state including a database edition unit for enabling a user to edit the contents database. Examiner takes Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03) that database administration in a computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made.

15. Claims 21-35 including limitations that are substantially similar to the limitations of claims 2, 3, 5, and 13-19, and are therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/14/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, "By contrast, applicant's invention is a system for managing multimedia contents..."

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., multimedia contents) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant argues, "Deo does not disclose or suggest a contents monitoring unit that outputs contents modification information when the contents file of the apparatus is modified" [see Applicant's Response, page 10, second paragraph].

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

As shown in the above rejection, Deo disclose managed objects that are modified are also submitted to the service administrator for storage in the global database (Deo, col. 4, lines 29-35).

Applicant argues, "Doi does not disclose or suggest an apparatus that comprises a contents file and a contents monitoring unit that outputs contents modification information when the apparatus modifies the contents file" [see Applicant's Response, page 11, first paragraph].

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Doi disclosed controlling a network which includes network elements connected via links and provides services, including collecting update information about each network element and converting the information to registration information and updating the registration information if there is a change, in which the registration information is transferred only when there is a change (Doi, col. 5, lines 20-30, col. 6, lines 13-15, 25-35).

Applicant's arguments are deemed moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection as explained here below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment (i.e., *including new claims*) to the claims which significantly affected the scope thereof.

The Applicant has failed to seasonably challenge the Examiner's assertions of well known subject matter in the previous Office action(s) pursuant to the requirements set forth under MPEP § 2144.03. A "seasonable challenge" is an explicit demand for evidence set forth by Applicant in the next response, including a statement why the noticed fact is not considered to be common knowledge or well-known in the art. A

general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without any reference to the examiner's assertion of official notice would be inadequate. Accordingly, the claim limitations the Examiner considered as "well known" in the first Office action, i.e. database administration, are now established as admitted prior art of record for the course of the prosecution. See *In re Chevenard*, 139 F.2d 71, 60 USPQ 239 (CCPA 1943) and MPEP § 2144.03, paragraph (C).

As it is Applicant's right to continue to claim as broadly as possible their invention, it is also the Examiner's right to continue to interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality that allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique. By the rejection above, the applicant must submit amendments to the claims in order to distinguish over the prior art use in the rejection that discloses different features of Applicant's claimed invention.

It is the Examiner's position that Applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of Applicant's disclosed invention in manner, which distinguishes over the prior art.

Failure for Applicant to significantly narrow definition/scope of the claims and supply arguments commensurate in scope with the claims implies the Applicant intends broad interpretation be given to the claims. The Examiner has interpreted the claims with scope parallel to the Applicant in the response and reiterates the need for the Applicant to more clearly and distinctly define the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

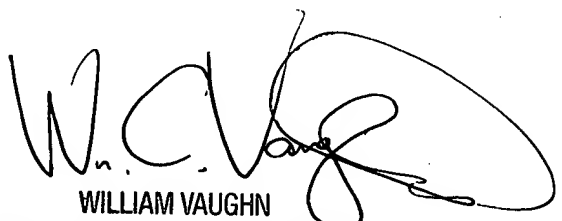
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571) 272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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